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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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MYSURU Tuesday 15th June 2021
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It's raining in Kodagu

Madikeri, June 15 (Akshay, PS&BCT)- Monsoon has begun in Kodagu and it has been raining in the district since the last 48 hours, prompting the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) to declare an Orange Alert till tomorrow morning.

Rains are accompanied by gusty winds and at many places, normal life has been thrown out of gear.

The IMD has predicted heavy to very heavy rains in some places and extremely heavy rains at isolated places.

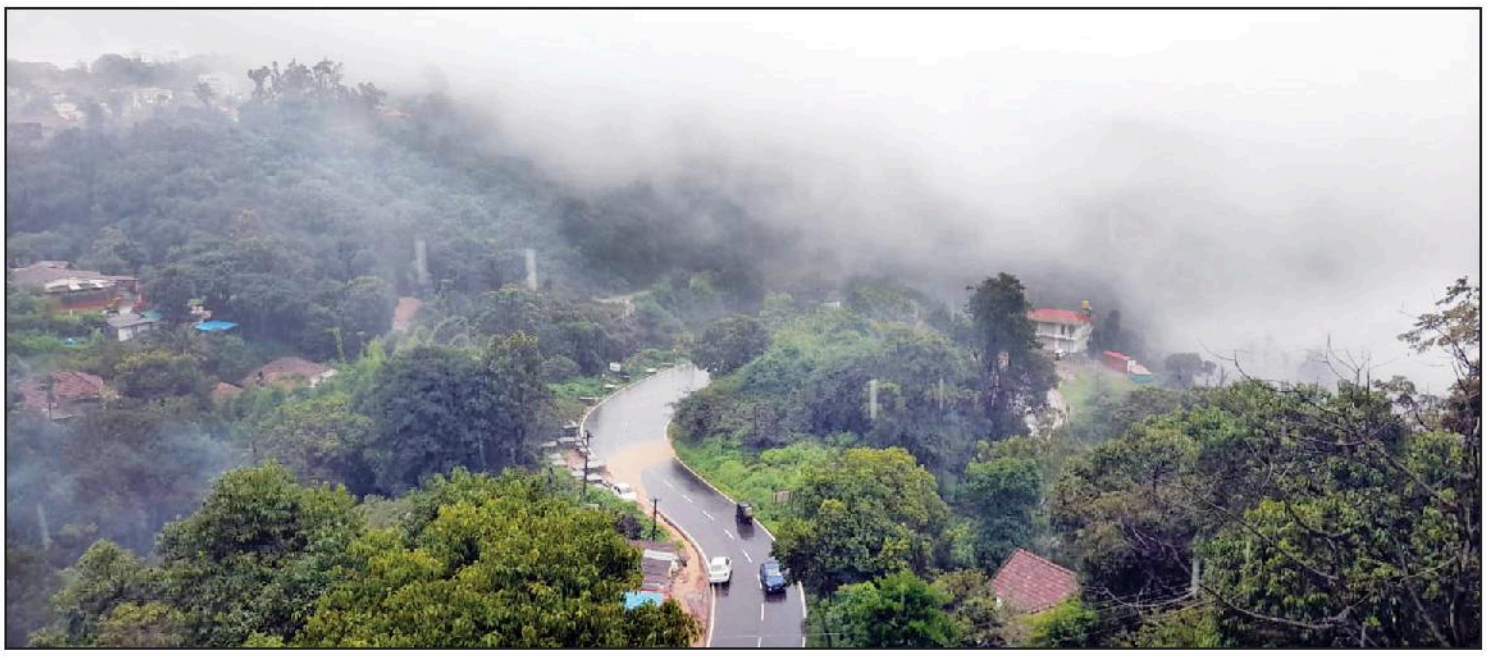
It rained in Mysuru too today morning catching office-goers unawares.

Though there are no reports of widespread damages in Kodagu, electricity poles have fallen on many roads and there have been reports of tree falls owing to strong winds, disrupting power and telephone lines.

Water levels in rivers are rising and River Cauvery has swollen at Siddapura, Kondangeri and Karadigodu and the water is continuously flowing to the Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) Dam in Mandya district.

Heavy rains have been reported at Madikeri, Suntikoppa, Seventh Hosakote, Ponnampet, Srimangala, Birunani, Kakkabbe, Bhagamandala, Talacauvery and Madapura.

(See KODAGU on page 12)



A foggy view of Madikeri in the hilly district of Kodagu this morning.

Mysuru Mayor disqualification

SC to hear case on June 28

New Delhi, June 15- The Supreme Court (SC) this afternoon posted the hearing of the case challenging Karnataka High Court's order disqualifying Rukmini Madegowda as MCC Corporator, to June 28. Rukmini of JD(S), also Mayor, was disqualified as Corporator for not disclosing details of assets in the affidavit filed along with her nomination papers in 2018.

To Our Readers

Turn to page-6 for an exclusive interview with **S. Subbaraman,** retired Superintending Archaeological Chemist, ASI, titled ***"From Ajanta Caves to Bamiyan Buddha Statues in Afghanistan..."*** **—Ed**

Online classes, Offline problem

Students, teachers of Otterthotti in Chamarajanagar trek to hilltops for internet

Mysuru, June 15 (BCT)- In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, students, teachers, parents and communities are doing their best to replace in-person with online learning. But Praveen from a remote village in Chamarajanagar, who is in 10th Standard, has not attended even one day of class.

Ever since Praveen's school was closed for months amid the pandemic, lessons are being taught in the online mode and he cannot learn as he has to travel every day from Otterthotti village, where there is no internet access, to Maartalli in Hanur taluk of Chamarajanagar to attend the classes which are normally held in stages, all day long. His parents can neither support transport nor can his family rent a place at Maartalli by paying Rs. 7,000.

"The school is now saying, attend online class, but my child cannot. We have somehow managed to pay the fee. My son's future is at stake," said Victor, who has a small rain-dependent farm in the village. Praveen's case is just one example of how the pandemic has exacerbated the country's digital divide — the gap between those with the means and knowledge to benefit from the internet and those without.

(See ONLINE on page 5)

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Tuesday 15th June 2021

IIT-Madras Research calls for higher Govt. investment to protect elderly from COVID impact

Chennai, June 15 (UNI)-An Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) Research has called for greater Government investment in public healthcare to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the elderly.

The current pandemic poses a greater risk of social isolation among the elderly, which may lead to greater adverse health impact, an IIT-M release said yesterday.

The poor among the elderly would suffer more than others. As a result, their access to regular primary healthcare services and continuity of care that is essential for those suffering from non-communicable diseases, given their dependency and lack of mobility, may have worsened further during this pandemic.

Overall, given the evidence on the possible hardships that the elderly may have already gone through during the pandemic and hardships that they may face in the future, the importance of strengthening the public health care system could not be over-emphasised, the researchers opine.

Based on the 75th round of the National Sample Survey (NSS) 2017-18, the study, published in prestigious international journal *Globalization and Health*, found that only 18.9 percent of the elderly had health insurance and therefore they may not be able to bear large expenditures on health; and further, 27.5 percent of people, whose age is 80 years or above, are immobile and 70 percent of elders are partially or wholly financially dependent on others.

The NSS survey covered 1,13,823 households and 5,55,115 individuals from randomly selected 8,077 villages and 6,181 urban areas. The results showed that disparities exist in health status as well as healthcare access of elderly people across the country.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

No vaccine should remain in a Government or Private Hospital refrigerator for more than 10 days. It should reach inside someone's body to protect them quickly against the dreaded disease. Both Government and Private Hospitals should give their opening and closing balances of vaccine stock to the State or Central War Room every 10 days. If a hospital is not able to vaccinate its stock in 10 days, it should distribute this to others. This strategy will address the inefficiency of Government Hospitals and the hoarding of vaccines by Private Hospitals. Vaccination should become a flexible 24×7 service under medical supervision. Time is running out, we should be able to vaccinate at home, inside the car or under a tree. Even at midnight in a hospital campus.

Our brightest nurses in Kolkata demonstrated that one nurse can easily and safely vaccinate about seven people in a minute, with the support of unemployed girls given a few weeks of training. We are blessed in having some of the brightest doctors, nurses and paramedics. Leave it to them to figure out the safest and most efficient manner to vaccinate. Vaccination services should be available for everyone at a walking distance from their home or place of work, which will be possible down to the small towns by using every registered nursing home and clinic. To vaccinate villagers Government has a mature door-to-door delivery system with ANMs and doctors on call supported by NGOs. Vaccination should become a community affair.

Most companies can vaccinate their employees' families. Most housewives can vaccinate their maid, driver and their families. Awareness should be created about the hardship the urban poor suffered due to lockdowns. After all, their only job is to serve the needs of the affluent, for whom vaccination has the best and the highest return on investment. A vaccine certificate can also be made mandatory at workplaces, public transport and recreational facilities when vaccines become freely available. — *Dr. Devi Shetty in The Times of India*

NEWS SPARKLERS

Camera dropped into lake washes up a year later

South Kootenay: A camera that was dropped into a British Columbia lake by a camper climbing into a boat was found washed up on the beach a year later and returned to its owner.

Dannelle MacKinnon said she was walking her dog on the beach at Lake Koocanusa, in the South Kootenay region, when she spotted a corroded camera sticking out of the sand.

She posted about the found camera on Facebook and included some of the photos from the memory card. The post came to the attention of a person who recognized a friend, Karen Gagon, from one of the photos.

Gagon contacted MacKinnon and revealed she was the one who had dropped the camera into the lake about a year earlier. She said the camera had plunged into the water while she was pushing herself up into a small boat.

Gagon said she was overjoyed to get her photos back, especially some pictures of a trip to San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Sculptor creates cardboard replicas of motorcycle

Sao Jose do Rio Preto: An amateur sculptor in Brazil is making waves online after sharing his latest passion project: life-sized cardboard replicas of motorcycles.

Henry Goncalves, 19, of Sao Jose do Rio Preto, said he spent 10 months creating his first motorcycle replica, a Honda Hornet, from cardboard, PVC pipe and screws.

Goncalves, a lifelong car enthusiast, said the Hornet was the first bike to spark his love of motorcycles and added that his second motorcycle, a BMW R1200, brought him his first viral attention.

Goncalves said he now wants to try on even larger projects, and aspires to eventually build an entire cardboard house.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Eating Sea food has been found to be beneficial for your Mental health. Omega 3 Fatty acids abundantly found in fish has been shown to improve brain development in children. Also studies has found, people who eat more sea fish have slower Mental decline with age.

Dr. Krishna K.R. - Consultant Psychiatry

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** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*

Recent Northumbria University research has revealed that drinking peppermint tea offers protection against memory loss, improves cognitive functioning and enhances mood, especially in older adults. Benefits began within 20 minutes of drinking the tea.

COVID-19 UPDATE - MYSURU

DATES	JUNE 13	JUNE 14
Day's Positive Cases	1,251	670
Total Positive Cases	1,57,796	1,58,466
Day's Discharges	2,118	2,061
Total Discharges	1,43,418	1,45,479
Day's Deaths	25	25
Total Deaths	1,859	1,884
Total Active Cases	12,519	11,103

NOTE: Figures as per Government Media Bulletin

Additional 1,06,300 vials of Amphotericin-B allocated to States: Union Minister

New Delhi, June 15 (UNI) - Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers D.V. Sadananda Gowda on Monday announced that additional 1,06,300 vials of Liposomal Amphotericin-B have been allocated across all the States, UTs and Central institutions.

'Ensuring significant availability of Liposomal #Amphotericin-B, additional 1,06,300 vials of the drug have been allocated across all the States/UTs and Central Institutions today,' the Minister tweeted.

A total of 53,000 vials of Conventional Amphotericin-B have also been allocated to them today. The allocation of conventional Amphotericin-B is being made to ensure its smooth supply and timely treatment of patients, another tweet of him said.

The allocation of #Conventional Amphotericin-B is being made to ensure its smooth supply and timely treatment of patients.

REALLY...?

- ***Apple trees take 4-5 years to produce their first fruit. A standard size apple tree starts bearing fruit 8-10 years after it is planted. A dwarf tree starts bearing fruit in 3-5 years. Apples will ripen six to ten times faster at room temperature than if they were refrigerated. It takes about 36 apples to create one gallon of apple cider.***

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

A fat man sitting in a train cabin.
***Banta asks**: Is this cabin for elephants only!*
Fat man humbly replies:
No! Even monkeys like you can sit !

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 73.20
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 103.32
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 19.93
1 Euro	= Rs. 88.76

VOICE OF THE READER

House Tax

When will MCC streamline online payment system?

Sir,

About two days back I read in *SOM* about our new MCC Commissioner expressing the drop in revenue to MCC because of the drop in house tax collection.

I am a senior citizen and I have been paying the house tax regularly for so many years, every year by visiting the Corporation Zonal Office.

To tell you frankly this process of paying the house tax at the office is really a nuisance particularly for senior citizens. Firstly, there is no respect for the citizens and we are made to stand like culprits in front of the daily wage workers for getting the form filled up. No Officer will be present there.

After getting the form filled up we have to move from table to table for getting the signatures and we will have to wait for hours if the concerned person is not in the seat. Then we will have to stand in one more line for making the payment.

For payment, credit/ debit card is not accepted and we should tender exact change or else the amount will not be accepted. After payment of cash we should stand in one more queue to get a signature on the cash paid receipt.

We are in 21st century but the MCC Zonal Offices are working like age old office. When our Prime Minister is talking about Digital Era, this is the state of affair of our MCC Offices.

When such a big city like Bengaluru has made the tax payment online about a decade back, why MCC is not able to establish the online payment system? For over ten years whenever I visit the MCC Office for house tax payment, I have made it a point to meet the Sub-Registrar or Tashildar, who is in-charge of the Office and inquire about online payment system. But every year I am told that the online payment system will be introduced this year which has never happened.

MCC is behaving as though development of a software for online payment is like a rocket science.

If the authorities are not capable of sorting out the teething problems in the online payment system and build a foolproof system, it is better that the new Commissioner takes a decision to depute the MCC staff for door-to-door house tax collection.

This will be of great help to the citizens during this COVID-19 period and MCC will be earning the revenue.

—M. Jagadish

Mysuru
14.6.2021

CGHS Wellness Centre to come up in city soon

Mysuru, June 15 (BCT)- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has granted permission to create required posts to operate a **Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) Wellness Centre in Mysuru.**

According to a letter from the Ministry dated June 10, the competent authority has accorded to create 64 posts for 16 new Allopathic CGHS Wellness Centres across the country. Each Centre will have a Medical Officer, Pharmacist, Staff Nurse and a Clerk.

While the new Centres would come up Mysuru, Ghaziabad, Narela, Chandigarh, Panchkula, Nasik, Aurangabad, Coimbatore and Chandrapur, temporary units functioning in Gwalior, Kannur, Kozhikode, Sonipat, Wadi and Ichhapur would be regularised.

The letter also directed the Director of CGHS to instruct Additional Directors to take steps for opening new Allopathic Wellness Centres and for the appointment of the newly-created posts.

The Centre, which functions like a dispensary, would benefit Central Government employees in Mysuru. Presently, a CGHS Centre is in Bengaluru and the Central Government employees and pensioners had to travel all the way to Bengaluru to buy medicines. CGHS has empanelled a set of Private Hospitals where beneficiaries can undergo free treatment.

In emergency situations, the beneficiaries can undergo treatment in Private Hospitals after obtaining a certificate that states that the treatment was obtained due to emergency condition and reimburse the medical charges.

"I have been pursuing this issue since 35 years"

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, **Central Government Pensioners Association (CGPA) President Dr. T.S. Satyanarayana Rao** said that finally, after years of struggle, the CGHS Wellness Centre is coming up in Mysuru. "There are over 70,000 Central Govt. pensioners in Mysuru and this Centre will go a long way in ensuring the health of those who are serving and have retired from services," he said.

Dr. Satyanarayana Rao

In fact, these Wellness Centres should be sanctioned for every place that has more than 7,000 Central employees and pensioners. "Gradually, we will get more such Centres. The new Centre will benefit employees and pensioners from Mysuru, Mandya, Chamarajanagar and Kodagu," he added.

As per the Government directive, the site for the Wellness Centre must be identified immediately. "We have started looking for a place to rent or lease and the authorities from CGHS Wellness Centre, Bengaluru, will visit Mysuru shortly to finalise the location. I have been pursuing this issue along with the office-bearers (past and present) of the Association since 35 years and finally it is becoming a reality," Dr. Rao added.

State BJP In-charge arriving tomorrow

Arun Singh

Bengaluru, June 15 (KMS & DM)- Even as speculations regarding change of guard in the State refuse to die down despite Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa's assertions that he would continue as the CM for the remaining two years of the current term of the Assembly, the scheduled visit of State BJP In-charge Arun Singh to the State capital has raised curiosity among political circles.

Arun Singh will be arriving in Bengaluru tomorrow (June 16) on a three-day visit, which the BJP has confirmed through a press release.

Upon his arrival, Arun Singh will hold talks with Yediyurappa and his Cabinet colleagues separately at the party's State Headquarters here tomorrow evening. During the talks, Singh is likely to receive inputs from Ministers on the achievements they have made in respect of their portfolios, the co-operation they are getting from the CM, whether there are any lapses in fund allocation among other issues.

On June 17, Singh is scheduled to hold a one-to-one meeting with disgruntled Legislators who are up in arms against the CM, following which he will hold a meeting with party legislators. Subsequently, he will attend a Core Committee meeting during which he is likely to discuss issues concerning party organisation and administrative matters.

On June 18, Singh will hold a meeting with select party leaders, following which he will address a press meet.

Obituary

Savithri Krishnan

Mysuru, June 15- Savithri Krishnan (84), a resident of Shrusti Anmol Apartment on Jayalakshmi Vilas Road in Chamarajapuram, passed away yesterday following brief illness.

She leaves behind her husband C.S. Krishnan, son C.K. Muralidharan (Accounts Supervisor, Marketing Division, BEML and a freelance sports journalist), daughter Uma Nataraj and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at Chirashanthidhama in Gokulam yesterday evening.

Keshava

Keshava (45), a resident of Paduvarahalli 3rd Cross, passed away yesterday in city.

He leaves behind his wife, two sons and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were held at Chirashanthidhama in Gokulam yesterday evening, according to family sources.

Ramesh Kumar

Ramesh Kumar (43), a resident of Pattegar Street in Mandi Mohalla, passed away yesterday in city. He leaves behind his wife, one son, mother, brothers and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were held at Jodi Tenginamara Burial Grounds in Bannimantap, according to family sources.

Government announces Rs. 1 lakh relief for BPL families losing bread-winner to COVID

Bengaluru, June 15 (SSV)- Chief Minister B. S. Yediyurappa has announced a compensation of Rs. 1 lakh each to the families of Below Poverty Line (BPL) which loses its bread-winner to COVID-19 pandemic.

This scheme is aimed at helping hundreds of families that have lost its bread-earners to the contagion. This is an extension of two economic relief packages announced by the Government to mitigate problems of COVID-hit people. However, this scheme is limited to one person per family.

The CM said the COVID-19 pandemic has killed earning members, pushing families into extreme financial distress. Keeping this in mind, BPL families that have lost an adult earning member to COVID-19 will be given Rs. 1 lakh as compensation. The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 200 crore - Rs. 300 crore in addition to the already announced economic relief package worth Rs. 1,850 crore.

"Given our financial situation, we have been able to announce this scheme and this tells us that our situation is better than most States during the pandemic. Nowhere in the country has such a scheme been announced," Yediyurappa said.

Welcome move

"The compensation announced by the State Government to BPL families is a welcome step. This scheme is going to help thousands of families that have lost its earning member due to Coronavirus. Karnataka is the only State in the country to announce such a scheme. This shows the commitment of Chief Minister Yediyurappa towards people," said Naveen Kumar, Member, Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

NEWS BRIEFS

Power disruption

Owing to underground cable laying work being undertaken at R.K. Nagar Power Distribution Centre, Kuvempunagar Sub-Division, power supply will be disrupted tomorrow (June 16) between 10 am and 5 pm in the following areas: BSNL, RTTC Compound, Maruthi Temple, Dodda Thayamma Temple, Hemavathi School, Thonachikoppal and surrounding areas, according to a press release from the Executive Engineer, CESC, V.V. Mohalla Sub-Division.

Arjuna Award

The Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports (DYES) has invited applications from deserving sports persons to confer Arjuna Award for the year 2021. Eligible applicants can mail their applications through e-mail *surendra.yadav@nic.in* and *girnish.kumar@nic.in* before 5 pm of June 21. For details, contact DYES Office, Chamundi Vihar Stadium, Nazarbad [Ph: 0821-2564179], according to a press release .

K-CET registrations

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) is all set to receive applications for the Karnataka Common Entrance Test (K-CET) 2021 from Tuesday. Considering the pandemic situation, the KEA is making professional course seat aspirants submit applications through a mobile app that can be downloaded on their phones from the Play Store. According to officials from KEA, there are no other changes in the application form compared to the previous year.

WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM

Maximum	:	124.80 feet
Today	:	82.44 feet
Yesterday	:	82.30 feet
Inflow	:	1,218 cusecs
Outflow	:	353 cusecs

KABINI DAM

Maximum	:	2,284.00 feet
Today	:	2,265.60 feet
Inflow	:	6,407 cusecs
Outflow	:	700 cusecs

HARANGI DAM

Maximum	:	2,859.00 feet
Today	:	2,827.84 feet
Inflow	:	1,558 cusecs
Outflow	:	80 cusecs

COVID testing and vaccination drive in K.R. Assembly segment from tomorrow

Testing on June 16 & 17, vaccination from June 21

Mysuru, June 15 (MTY&DM)- Taking the ongoing battle against the deadly COVID -19 pandemic a step forward, KR MLA S.A. Ramdas said that a two-day massive COVID testing and vaccination drive will be taken out in KR Assembly segment limits, starting from tomorrow (June 16).

Speaking to press persons after holding a meeting with MCC officials on COVID control measures at the Mysuru City Corporation's (MCC) Old Council Hall here yesterday, Ramdas said that the drive will be carried out in association with MCC, Health Department, private Hospitals and several organisations, for which a pilot project has been prepared.

Pointing out that testing will take place on June 16 and 17 during which it has been targeted to conduct COVID test on about 1 lakh people residing in the limits of 19 MCC Wards covering 270 booths in the Assembly segment, he said that registration of names of people for vaccination will be done at the same time.

He further said that the testing drive has been named as 'Our step towards ensuring your health' and added that the drive will take place from 10 am to 5 pm on both the days.

Continuing, Ramdas said that out of the 3 lakh people of KR Assembly segment, 80,000 have been vaccinated. "The drive for vaccinating people aged over 18 years in KR Assembly segment will commence from June 21, coinciding with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's declaration that all persons aged over 18 years will be vaccinated for free from June 21 in phases," he pointed out and added that June 21 also marks International Day of Yoga.

Stating that three vehicles will be used for COVID testing drive, he said about 400 volunteers, ASHA workers, Health workers, Teachers and others will be part of the drive. Those who test positive during the drive, will be home isolated and given free medicines. Noting that a total of 500 beds have been reserved in different hospitals for COVID care, Ramdas said that a complete health check-up will be undertaken during the drive and if necessary, the patients will be treated at Hospitals under Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka Health Scheme.

Maintaining that Rs. 600 crore will be spent for purchasing vaccines, the MLA said that apart from voluntary organisations, local Corporators, organisations like Safe Wheels, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), N. Ranga Rao & Sons etc., Hospitals such as Shantaveri Gopala Gowda Hospital, Kamaskhi Hospital, Al-Ansaar Hospital, Panacea Hospital and Aditya Hospital, Nursing Colleges like BGS Nursing College and Raman Nursing College and NCC and NSS volunteers have extended their full co-operation for the drive.

Acting Mayor Anwar Baig, MCC Commissioner G. Lakshmikantha Reddy, Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) Chairman H.V. Rajeev, DHO Dr. T. Amarnath, Corporators Shivakumar and B.V. Manjunath, MCC Health Officer Dr. D.G. Nagaraj, Bed Management Nodal Officer Dr. P. Ravi, Vaccination Nodal Officer Dr. L. Ravi, Srihari of GSS Foundation, B.S. Prashanth Kumar of Safe Wheels and others were present.

Congress units stage protest against rising fuel prices

Cane growers demand probe into land grabbing case

Mysuru, June 15 (PM&SD)- Members and office-bearers of City Congress units staged protests against rising prices of fuel and essential commodities at multiple venues in city yesterday.

Members of Chamaraja constituency Congress Unit, Indira Gandhi and Devaraja Block Congress Units together with Youth Congress workers, headed by former MLA Vasu, staged protest in front of a petrol bunk on KRS Road near Akashvani Circle in Yadavgiri in city. Former Mayor Prakash and other Congress workers were present.

Members of National Students Union of India (NSUI) staged protest near a petrol bunk on Dasappa Circle (near Railway Station) and condemned the hike in prices of fuel and other essential commodities.

Members of Chamundeshwari Congress Unit held protest near a petrol bunk in Niveditanagar in city. Chamundeshwari Block Committee President Naganahalli Umashankar and others were present.

Cane growers demand probe

Members of Karnataka State Sugarcane Growers' Association, headed by Association State President Kuruburu Shanthakumar, staged protest in front of Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office yesterday.

Association members shouted slogans and urged the State Government to set up a Committee headed by a retired High Court Judge to probe into the allegations of land grabbing in city.

They also demanded the Government to fix sugarcane Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) at Rs. 3,200 per ton for the year 2021-22 and come to the rescue of distressed farmers by announcing a special loan scheme through Nationalised Banks.

Online classes

(Continued from page 1)

Poor access to telecom services, internet connectivity and snail-paced data speed has rather widened the digital divide. There are over 5,000 families in the Otterthotti region with hundreds of students, 120 teachers, over 100 IT professionals who have come from cities for work from home. They have to travel to Maartalli every day for connectivity and those who cannot afford travel or rent a room or a house at Maartalli are commonly found struggling hard to get internet access at various vantage points.

Anthony Muthu

Climbing on walls to access

They climb on stone walls where there is a bit of network and squat there the whole day trying to decipher what is being aired online. "We teachers too have to travel five kilometres to Maartalli to teach lessons through online mode as it is impossible to conduct classes at Otterthotti. We are paid only 30 to 40 percent of our salaries. How is it possible to bear the transport costs, fuel cost and food in this situation," asks **V. Anthony Muthu, a teacher.**

Speaking to *Star of Mysore* this morning, Anthony said that Otterthotti village is surrounded by hills and students and IT professionals have to walk long distances and trek uphill to access the internet. "It is a daily struggle. Despite poor network connection, students and teachers are asked to use online platforms like Zoom, Microsoft Team, Google Meet, etc. for online classes. Only 10 percent of students, teachers and professionals can go to Maartalli to access internet. The rest are suffering," he said.

A phone challenge

"We did not have a smart phone and I have had no work for the past two-three months. We have been trying to manage on our meagre resources. Buying a phone was the last thing on our minds. My daughter Swapna borrowed a phone from my sister and tried to catch up with the lessons. But there is no connectivity," Kumar said.

"Teachers share the links in the morning and sometimes at night. They ask us to make notes and submit pictures of the assignment. I have to walk near a water tank to get bare-minimum access. There is a lot of rush at places where there is little connectivity and we are unable to attend our online classes and marked absent. If there are more users, then connectivity is a problem," said Saravanan, a PUC student, who has a smartphone.

"The least the Maartalli Panchayat can do is to install a mobile network tower at Otterthotti village that comes under its jurisdiction. We are suffering since months and many appeals to the Panchayat and the District Administration have fallen on deaf ears," said Anthony.

MCC's door-to-door COVID testing drive

Mysuru, June 15 (MTY&DM)- In yet another exercise to check the spread of COVID, the MCC has launched door-to-door testing by deploying mobile units in all 9 MCC Zonal Offices.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, MCC Commissioner G. Lakshmikantha Reddy said that it is important to trace primary and secondary contacts of COVID positive patients in order to check the spread of the virus.

He noted that in the past, the primary and secondary contacts had to travel to distant testing centres, which posed a risk as there was every chance of others getting infected during travel. In this backdrop, the MCC has readied mobile units for all the 9 Zones for conducting door-to-door tests, he said.

Each mobile unit will have swab collection staff and a Data Entry Operator. RAT and RT-PCR tests will be conducted depending upon the necessity. The mobile units have not been given a target on the number of tests to be carried out everyday.

Vaccination tomorrow

The shelterless and destitute persons will be vaccinated near the Indira Canteen in CADA Office premises at 12.30 pm tomorrow (June 16), following which the differently-abled (18+) will be vaccinated at the School for the Blind at Tilkanagar from 10.30 am and registered street vendors at Town Hall at 3.30 pm.

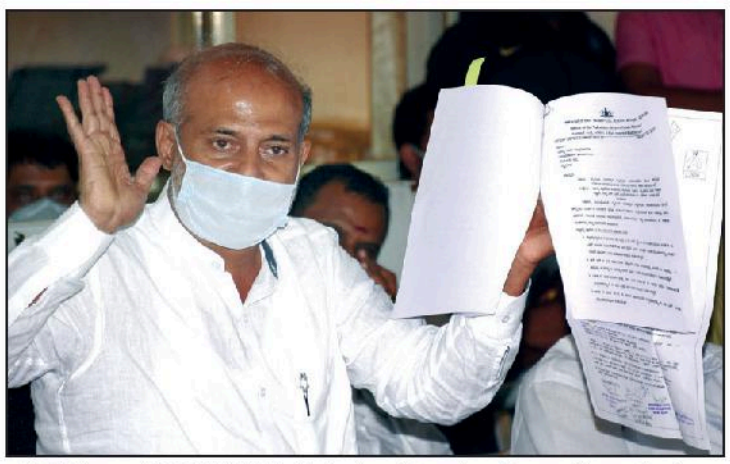
MOBILE UNIT NODAL OFFICERS

MCC Zones 1 and 8	*Mohan Kumar*	:	97430-13673
MCC Zones 2 and 3	*Srikanth*	:	97399-59945
MCC Zones 4 and 7	*Sridevi*	:	81472-40348
MCC Zone 5	*Arpitha*	:	95917-87335
MCC Zone 6	*Maithri*	:	81057-39384
MCC Zone 9	*Chetan*	:	87227-75596

Sa.Ra. Convention Hall not on Raja Kaluve: Panel

- Clean chit to K.R. Nagar JD-S MLA
- MLA S.R. Mahesh denies any wrongdoing

Mysuru, June 15 (SBD&BCT)- The controversy after former Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri saying that the Sa.Ra. Convention Hall — a Choultry owned by K.R. Nagar JD-S MLA S.R. Mahesh — stood on a *Raja Kaluve* (storm water drain) showed a sign of settling down for now as the probe panel has submitted a report giving a clean chit to the MLA.



K.R. Nagar JD-S MLA S.R. Mahesh addressing the media yesterday.

The 11-member probe committee was constituted by Regional Commissioner Dr. G.C. Prakash after the MLA staged a protest on the issue and had asked the Officer to investigate. The panel submitted its report to Deputy Commissioner Dr. Bagadi Gautham, who in turn had submitted it to the Regional Commissioner last afternoon.

The committee led by Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. B.S. Manjunathaswamy and comprising members including Assistant Commissioner Dr. N.C. Venkataraju, Tahsildar K.R. Rakshith and Deputy Director of Land Records Prasad Kulkarni visited the Convention Hall at Dattagalli last week and had measured the area, surveyed the locality and then submitted the report.

The report stated that the said building had not been constructed on the *Raja Kaluve* and the Choultry does not stand on encroached land. Rohini Sindhuri contended that the Convention Hall was built with a severe violation on Survey Number 123 which is a grazing land as notified by the Government and had demanded a comprehensive probe into the entire deal of how the Government land was transferred into private land.

Soon after the report was submitted to the Regional Commissioner, MLA Mahesh held an emergency press conference last evening and claimed that the allegations made by the IAS Officer were far from truth. "I don't have anything to say now as it has been established that the Choultry has not been built on a *Raja Kaluve,"* he said.

What the report says?

The report states that as per the *Aakaar Bandh* (root land document) of Survey Number 130/3, the Choultry stands on a 2.15-acre land and there is no Government land here. The Kharab land on Survey Numbers 123/1, 122/1.2 and 98 has been identified and as per plans, box drains and a road have been constructed. There is no encroachment of Government land.

The Convention Hall has not been built on the *Raja Kaluve* and there is a distance of 74, 72 and 73 metres between the *Raja Kaluve* and the Choultry depending on the land gradient and the same has been established in the physical survey done by the panel, the report said.

The land RTC of 2.15 acres is in the name of Anitha Mahesh, wife of MLA Mahesh after the land was owned by different owners. The said land was earmarked as residential purpose in 2004 and later in 2010 the same land has been converted into commercial use by an order issued by the then Government (Deputy Commissioner), the report said.

MLA reacts

Reacting on the probe committee report at the press conference, MLA Mahesh said that there is no truth behind the allegations made by Rohini Sindhuri. "Let the IAS Officer introspect and ask her conscience," he said.

"There is no *Raja Kaluve* in Mysuru but there is a canal that runs from Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) Dam and Kukkarahalli Lake and from there to Lingambudhi Lake. This has also been mentioned in the records. We have not encroached upon the land and instead, we purchased the parcel of the land (4 acres) 30 years ago by paying Rs. 90,000 per acre and all the transactions are legal," he claimed showing a set of records.

"I had written a 10-page letter to the Chief Minister citing certain irregularities committed by the previous DC and as soon as the Government initiated the enquiry, Rohini Sindhuri made allegations against me and through some RTI activists attempted to tarnish my image and passed orders just a day before her transfer and tried to project that land mafia was involved in her transfer," Mahesh claimed.

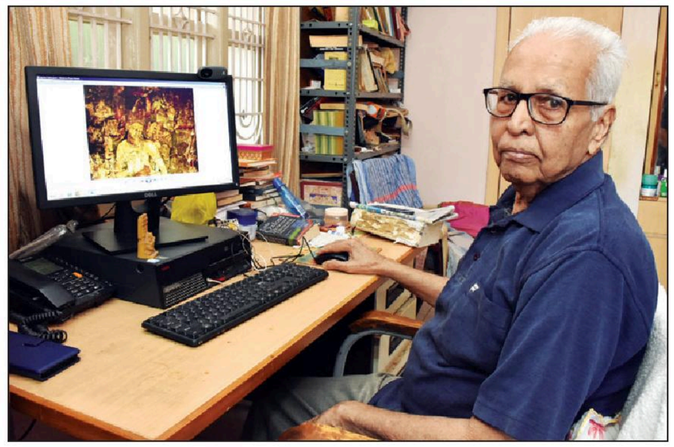
Lake not encroached

Mahesh said that he has not in any way encroached upon the Lingambudhi Lake land. "As per the Karnataka Lake Development Authority guidelines and as per the Supreme Court orders, development work cannot come up till 30 metres of the land from any lake. But the former Mysuru DC says — as per 2016 law — no construction is permitted within 70 metres. The Forest Department has demarcated its boundaries and the land has been fenced with boundary stones," he said.

From Ajanta Caves to Bamiyan Buddha Statues in Afghanistan...

Meet the Mysurean behind conservation of priceless murals & heritage monuments

Painting has been one of the means of expression from time immemorial. India, with a history of over 5,000 years, has been known for having murals of hundreds of years old. Restoring them is a biggest challenge. S. Subbaraman, retired Superintending Archaeological Chemist, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), has the credit of restoring murals from Ajanta Caves to Halebid temple and Bamiyan Buddha Statues in Afghanistan. A resident of Mysuru, the nonagenarian shared his experiences with Star of Mysore in a freewheeling chat. —Ed



MESSIAH OF MURALS: **The 92-year-old Subbaraman displaying the mural conserved by him at Ajanta.**

By Shyam Sundar Vattam

Star of Mysore (SOM): From Food and Drugs Analyst, how did your mind attract towards Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) as Chemical Assistant. Is it out of passion or compulsion?

Subbaraman: I did not join ASI out of any passion for Archaeology. To be frank, I did not even know much about Archaeology at that point of time. It was the perceived higher importance attached to serving in the Central Government (rather than in a State Government), besides the lure of a higher pay. In the King Institute, Madras, I was getting a salary of Rs. 145. In my new job in ASI, it was the 'princely' sum of Rs. 220 (Rs. 160 basic + 60 D.A.). For lower middle class people like us, the luxury of choosing our careers was not there. We just needed a job to make a living and we went wherever chance led us.

However, after joining ASI and working in such great monuments like Ajanta, I started developing an admiration and love for these monuments, besides realising my good fortune of being in the important field of preserving our priceless heritage. After working in ASI for a few years, I came to understand one thing. Working on such objects of immeasurable value, such as the Ajanta paintings for instance, requires not only technical knowledge of the chemicals, materials, procedures and manual skill but a certain amount of artistic sensibility and a feel for these great works of art. Then only a conservator can be really successful.

SOM: Which was your first assignment after joining as Chemical Assistant in ASI?

Subbaraman: My first assignment was to work on 13th Century mural in the Jain cave in a hamlet called Thirumalai in the North Arcot district of Tamil Nadu. My senior, K.T.M. Hegde, who was already there when I arrived on May 1, 1954, trained me in the work, which consisted of cleaning the paint surface and bring back the colours to their original brightness. So it provided just training ground but did not prove very exciting.

SOM: You mentioned about following a new technology for restoration of mural, what is that technology?

Subbaraman: There are two techniques, Strappo and Stacco. When there are perennial problems like constant moisture in the wall, it becomes impossible to preserve mural paintings, *in situ*. It then becomes necessary to transfer them from the wall and remount them on a different support. This work of transfer has been in practice in Italy for a long time and they have both experience and expertise in the work.

SOM: Explain how the restoration work begins?

Subbaraman: A mural painting is basically a layered structure, consisting of support, ground and paint layer. Old mural in our country are mostly in the 'Tempera' technique, in which the pigments are ground in an organic binding medium and the painting is done on a dry ground.

SOM: How did you restore Ajanta Cave paintings and other paintings in Lepakshi Temple?

Subbaraman: The first mural painting conservation project in India was undertaken by the Nizam of Hyderabad for conserving and restoring Ajanta paintings by inviting two Italian restorers, Cecconi and Orsini in 1920 and 21. They did a very good job of consolidating the fragile paintings. But in the end they applied Shellac as preservative coat on the paint surface which caused problems for us in future conservation. Initially it brightened the paint surface but the Shellac gradually underwent oxidation due to reaction with the atmosphere and turned yellow and even brownish, distorting the appearance of the original colours. When we took up restoration, we had to remove this Shellac coating without harming the paint surface. A number of organic solvents were experimented with before arriving at an optimum solvent. Due to which major portions of paintings have survived in six caves of Ajanta.

As far as Lepakshi is concerned, the Veerabhadraswamy temple here, built in late Vijayanagar period, is noted both for its beautiful sculptures and paintings. When I went there in 1958, the paintings on the ceiling of the outer Mantapa had already been conserved by my predecessors. I had to take up work in the interior. Here, the problem was of soot emanating from oil lamps and camphor *arathis*. The ceiling, about 30 feet long and 15 feet wide, had been covered with thick deposits of soot, completely hiding the paintings underneath. Only from faint outlines visible could we make out that there were paintings below the soot deposit. A mildly alkaline organic solvent was applied on the paint to remove soot.

External Affairs Minister A.B. Vajpayee at Bamiyan.

Team leader Subbaraman being introduced to Vajpayee.

At last, a 16-feet-long Veerabhadra figure, with crown and other ornamentation and five hands on each side, each hand holding a different weapon, emerged. The work was all the more difficult because it had to be done on the ceiling. The conservator had to keep looking upwards all the time.

SOM: Explain about higher training in art restoration in Rome. Did you see the difference in restoration process between India and abroad?

Subbaraman: I had a lot of fascination for Roman History from my school days after reading about Julius Caesar and other heroes and Rome being the epicentre of the Roman empire and having wonderful monuments of various epochs with sculptures and paintings galore. I stayed in Rome for 10 months and studied their techniques. I also visited museum conservation laboratories in Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, France and England to study latest techniques.

SOM: What restoration works did you take up in Belur and Halebid temples?

Subbaraman: The work in the Hoysala monuments of Belur and Halebid did in 1964-65 consisted the removal of darkish growth of moss all over, which was disfiguring the intricately carved sculptures in the exterior. Since the stone here is quite soft, extra care had to be taken in the cleaning so as not to damage the stone surface. Soft brushes had to be used to avoid abrasion.

SOM: After restoration, for how many years the murals survive?

Subbaraman: After restoration, the survival of the murals in a good condition depends on maintenance. Moisture is the single biggest factor for their deterioration. Therefore, care should be taken to completely stop the ingress of rain water through repairs to the building and constant maintenance. If they are in a tourist centre like Ajanta, the number of visitors at any one time has to be restricted, so as to avoid too much of carbon dioxide breathed out by the people that will affect the paintings.

SOM: How those paintings of 500 to 600 years old survived despite vagaries of nature. What kind of colours were they using?

Subbaraman: One of the main reasons why these mural paintings have survived for hundreds of years is that the pigments used are all of mineral origin and more resistant to chemical change. If pigments of organic origin, say from vegetables or flowers, had been used, they would have faded long since. Stability of temperature and relative humidity inside the buildings is another factor that helps.

SOM: We are eager to know about your experience as a team leader to Bamiyan, Afghanistan, for the conservation and restoration of the two gigantic Buddha statues. How did you do it?

Subbaraman: I led a team to Bamiyan, Afghanistan in June 1977, after we completed the 9-year project of conserving and restoring the two gigantic Buddha statues. The work on the 'small' Buddha had been completed earlier and work on the 183-feet-tall big Buddha was in progress, which we completed in all respects. We had erected 200-feet-high steel scaffolding, going up to the roof of the niche containing the statue, for our work. You could also reach the head of the Buddha statue by climbing a hillock from behind. If you stood on the head of the statue, it looked like you were standing in a large room. The work consisted in consolidating the stone surface of the statue and also conserving the mural, depicting various Buddhist themes on the walls and ceiling of the niche. The paintings belonged to the 3rd/4th centuries C.E. It was the most exciting and challenging job. I had an enthusiastic team with me who took up the challenge with zest and completed the work within four months. We would start at 8.30 am and finish by 4.30 pm. Then we would play volleyball.

I was told that when the project began in 1969, the local people were hostile to it, their religion being opposed to idol worship. But as the work progressed and more and more tourists began coming in with more hotels being opened and the economy of the village improving, then people became friendly. Our Ambassador at that time, S.K. Singh (who later became India's Foreign Secretary) was very helpful. Whenever the team members visited Kabul, the Embassy staff members used to invite us for dinner. The visit of our then External Affairs Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, for formally handing over the monuments to the Afghan Government after the completion of our work, is memorable. The opening words of his speech are still ringing in my ears. He said: *"Bamiyan aakar, hamaara Afghanistan Yaatra Theerthyathra ban gaya."*

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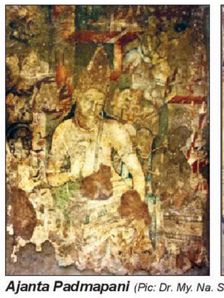
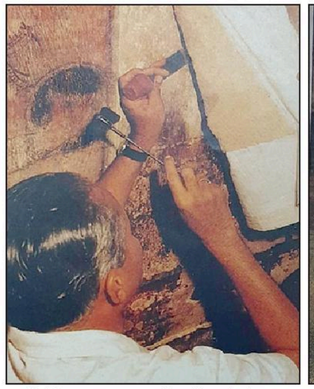


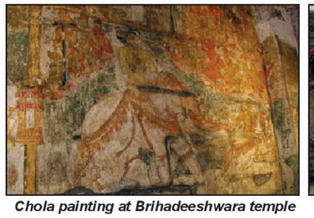
Ajanta Padmapani *(Pic: Dr. My. Na. Sharma)*

Ajanta painting



Subbaraman separating Nayaka layer at Thanjavur temple.

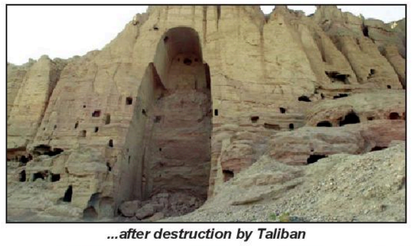
Remounted Nayaka painting after separation at Thanjavur.



Chola painting at Brihadeeshwara temple in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.

Lepakshi mural.

Bamiyan Buddha



...after destruction by Taliban

Angkor Wat

From Ajanta to Afghanistan...

[Continued from Page - 7]

SOM: What was your initial response when you heard that the Bamiyan Buddha statues were destroyed by Talibans?

Subbaraman: I was in the USA in 2001, visiting my son and daughter in California, when I heard the news of the destruction of the statues by the Taliban. Such acts of barbarous vandalism would be saddening to any sensitive person but imagine the feelings of one like me, personally involved in their conservation! I was heart-broken.

SOM: How did you conserve Angkor Wat in Cambodia?

Subbaraman: I was only involved in the preparation of the project report for the conservation of Angkor Wat in 1982. The opportunity for studying this amazing monument over a period of four months and becoming acquainted with almost every inch of it was a Godsent opportunity. But I could not take part in the actual conservation work. The work was started by ASI only in 1986 and went on for 8 seasons. In 1986, I was nearing retirement and could not take part in it. However, earlier in 1986, I accompanied the Director-General of ASI to Angkor Wat for planning the first year's work of conservation project.

SOM: In India, how many murals have been destroyed for non-maintenance?

Subbarayan: More than 5,000 monuments have been declared as national monuments and protected by ASI. There are still a very large number of heritage structures outside Government control. But many of them have been destroyed due to lack of maintenance. Hampi in Vijayanagar District, Sibi in Tumakuru District and Nippani Palace in Belagavi District have a large area of murals. Work is yet to be done there. There are paintings in the temples inside the Mysore Palace too.

SOM: Do you think mural restoration is getting adequate recognition?

Subbaraman: My work has received sufficient attention among my peers, if not among the general public. That is because not all are interested in monuments or murals. It is happy to note that there is a lot of awareness among the authorities to take care of paintings. However, in view of the huge amount of work still to be done, there is a need to train more and more people in the work.

SOM: Can mural restoration attract youths?

Subbaraman: Some young people with an art background are taking up the work of art conservation. There should be enough encouragement and financial rewards for attracting more and more young people to this field.

SOM: Are you ready to help in case the State Government requests your services for the restoration of murals in Karnataka?

Subbaraman: In view of my age, I may not be able to take active part in any future conservation project but my suggestions and advice will always be available.

SOM: In your service spanning over three decades which was your joyous moment and the saddest?

Subbaraman: My most joyous moment during my 33 years of service in ASI was the successful execution of my work in the Brihadeeshwara temple, Thanjavur. (A close second was the treatment of Panduranga Vithala idol at Phandarpur). The saddest moment, of course, was when I heard the news of the destruction of the Bamiyan Buddhas by the Taliban in 2001.

Messiah of Murals

Born on December 21, 1929, S. Subbaraman completed M.A. Degree (first class) from Loyola College, Madras (now Chennai) in 1951. [The post-graduate degree awarded by the Madras University even in Science subjects those days was M.A. The M.Sc. degree could be obtained only by doing research].

From 1951 to 1954, he worked as Junior Analyst in the Food and Drugs Analysis section of King Institute, Madras.

On May 1, 1954, he joined the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) as Chemical Assistant and his first posting was at Thirumalai in the North Arcot District of Tamil Nadu to work on the preservation of 13th century mural paintings in the Jain cave there.

From February 1955 to June 1958, he worked at Ajanta, engaged in the conservation of the world-famous paintings there.

June 1958 to December 1960, he worked in the Veerabhadraswamy temple, Lepakshi; conserved the Vijayanagar period mural paintings in the temple.

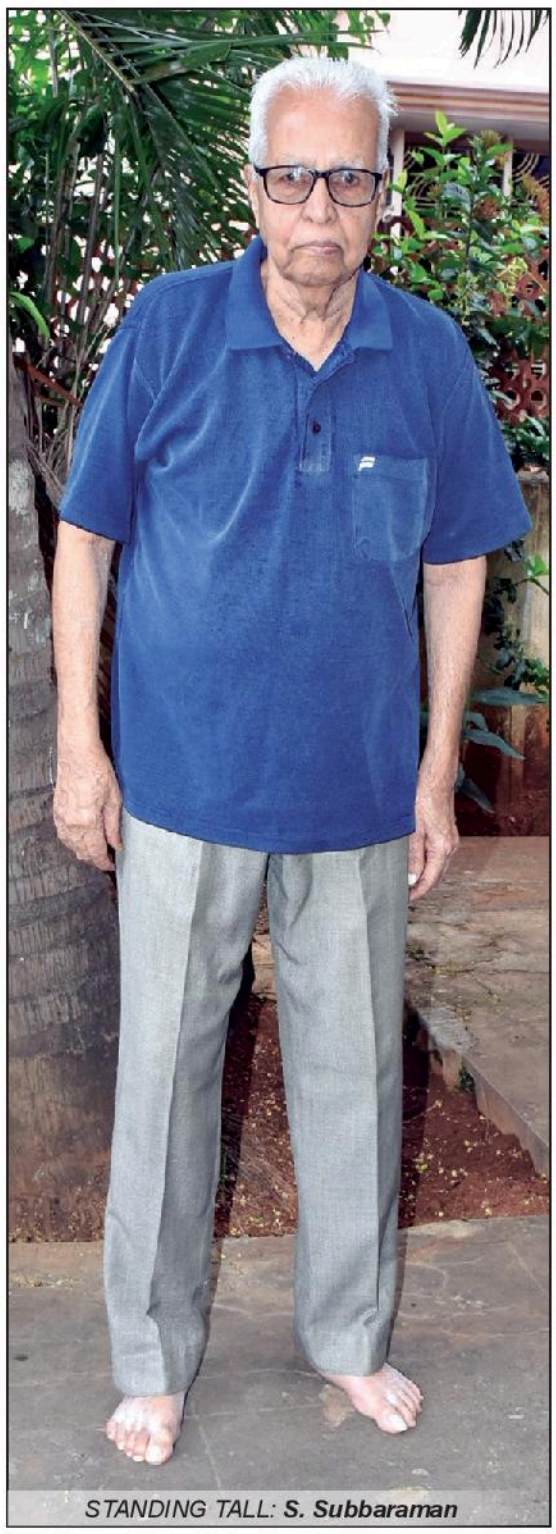
December 1960 to November 1961, Subbaraman received higher training in Art Restoration in the Central Institute of Art Restoration, Rome, under an Italian Government Scholarship.

May 1966 to May 1975, he was on deputation to the Indian Museum, Calcutta (now Kolkata); Set up the Conservation Laboratory of the Museum and was responsible for the conservation of a large number of music objects of different kinds.

May 1975 to December 1987, he returned to his parent department, ASI and took charge at Hyderabad as the Head of the Southern Region of the Chemistry Branch of ASI — first with the designation of Deputy Superintending Archaeological Chemist (class I) and later promoted as Superintending Archaeological Chemist (senior class I).

As Head of the Southern Region, he held responsibility for the conservation of monuments in all the four Southern States, besides Maharashtra and Gujarat.

In 1976, he started work on the mural paintings of Brihadeeshwara temple, Thanjavur and it continued up to the 80s. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation, on seeing the news about this work in *The Hindu,* sent a 4-member team to Thanjavur to film the entire operation, in 1986. It was later aired on TV as part of their programme 'Beyond 2000' highlighting the latest achievements in various fields.



STANDING TALL: ***S. Subbaraman***

During 1977 (June to October), he headed a 15-member team to Bamiyan, Afghanistan, for the conservation and restoration of the two gigantic Buddha Statues.

In 1982, he was among the 9-member ASI team to Cambodia to study Angkor Wat in detail and prepare a project report for its conservation.

He retired from ASI on December 31, 1987.

POST-RETIREMENT WORK

In 1988, he treated the idol of Sri Panduranga Vithala at Phandarpur, Maharashtra, since the stone surface of the image was being eroded due to constant abhishekas with milk, curd etc., every day.

1989 to 1991: Consultation work at the invitation of temples and other institutions.

1992: Project Officer in the Vrindaban Research Institute, Vrindaban, Mathura (UP) for developing the laboratory for the conservation of palm leaf and paper manuscripts.

1993 to 2006: Director of INTACH Chitrakala Parishath Art Conservation Centre (ICKPAC), Bangalore. A large number of art objects of different kinds like traditional paintings of the Mysore and Thanjavur Schools, Oil paintings, Water colours, Drawings, Manuscripts, Old bronzes, painted wooden objects, ivories etc., were conserved and restored by the Centre for Government as well as private institutions, besides individual owners.

Carried out mural painting conservation projects in Tamil Nadu: **i)** Srirangam temple (where the paintings were completely covered with soot due to a fire breakout that had taken place earlier); **ii)** Thanjavur Palace on the occasion of the World Tamil Conference in 1994; **iii)** Ramalinga Vilasam Palace, Ramanathapuram.

He also worked for the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM), Government of India, in visiting old manuscript collections in temples, mutts etc. and training the staff in preventive conservation of the palm leaf and paper manuscripts.

He was Karnataka State Coordinator for the National Survey of Manuscripts, conducted by NMM in 2005. They could identify and record about 2 lakh old manuscripts in the State.

In 2006, he took voluntary retirement from ICKPAC and shifted to Mysore (Mysuru) where he currently resides with his family on Sahukar Channaiah Road, Gangothri II Stage.

AIISH's fun ways to learn for kids

Mysuru, June 15 (MK&SD)- Engaging kids in a meaningful way is one of the major challenging tasks for most of the parents during this lockdown period.

In an effort to ease this situation, All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH) has created a number for videos using which parents can engage their kids through 'Aatada Jotengondu Paatha' (Learn lesson through a game).

This ambitious project, which is the brainchild of AIISH Director Dr. M. Pushpavathi, aims to engage children with fun learning activities for children. Sentence structure and other such language learning process has been made easy and enjoyable for kids through activities including day-to-day conversations about groceries, which are used at every household. Simple methodologies to engage and converse with them, at the same time improve their vocabulary, have also been demonstrated in these videos, which has now reached over 600 parents through *WhatsApp* and other such social media. Each week, one topic is being highlighted and released by AIISH.

"Our kids know about doctors, engineers and other such popular professions but totally unaware about farmers, dairy workers and other such persons in our society. They need to know about other such topics including healthy eating habits, our food etc., and hence, we have made an effort here to teach them in a fun way," said Dr. M. Pushpavathi.

"Instead of children spending their valuable time on mobile phone, parents can make use of these videos to engage their kids in a more effective and meaningful way through these fun learning activities," she added.

Raghu Kautilya bats for stipulation of fee based on school expenses

Mysuru, June 15 (DM)- D. Devaraj Urs Backward Classes Development Corporation Chairman R. Raghu Kautilya has urged the Government to stipulate school fees based only on the expenses incurred by each school for maintenance.

Raghu Kautilya

In a letter to Primary and Secondary Education Minister S. Suresh Kumar, Raghu Kautilya, who runs Kautilya Educational Institutions in the city, said that the maintenance charges of schools has reduced considerably as schools are running only online classes due to COVID crisis.

Noting that online classes are almost certain to continue in the new academic year too (2021-22), he said that the Government must factor in staff reduction, wages paid and other facilities, while determining the school fee.

Pointing out that the Government must apprise the Court on factuality, if private schools move the Court questioning the Government's regulation on school fees, Raghu said that one must accept that the maintenance cost of schools has come down drastically in the absence of physical classes. As such, it is the responsibility of school managements to reduce the burden of parents regarding school fees, he said.

Continuing, he said that it has come to his notice that several schools have already collected fees in full (100 percent) from the parents even before the start of the new academic year (2021-22).

Also, there are many examples where schools even after collection of full fees, are paying only half of the wages for teachers and other staff.

The schools must not take advantage of the current COVID situation to make profits, he said and added that the Government must initiate suitable action against schools which are charging exorbitant fee even in this distress situation.

Calling for co-ordination between school managements and parents in these trying times, when COVID-19 pandemic is causing havoc across the globe, he said that parents must not stick on to their adamant stand that they will not pay fee.

Likewise, the school managements too must be lenient and not force parents to pay fees like in previous years, he opined.

Winners of Online Chess Championships

Bengaluru, June 15- United Karnataka Chess Association (UKCA) had successfully organised a State-level ONLINE Youth and Cadet Chess Championships from June 3 to 12.

More than 1,400 players across the State participated in this mega event. The closing ceremony was conducted on June 13. Top two players from each category will represent Karnataka.

RESULTS

U-18 Open Category: Arhan Chethan Anand - 1st; Arnav Murulidhar - 2nd; **Girls Section:** Shriya Revankar - 1st; Sanjana Raghunath - 2nd.

U-16 Open: Pankaj Bhat - 1st and Sujan Bharadwaj - 2nd; **Girls:** Sanjana Raghunath - 1st; Ananya Arumbakkam - 2nd.

U-14 Open: Arhan Chethan Anand - 1st; Pragy Narayan - 2nd; **Girls:** Sanikommu Manasvi - 1st and KGR Anagha - 2nd.

U-12 Open: Sathvik Adiga - 1st; Chinmay Koushik - 2nd; **Girls:** Akshya Sathi - 1st; Rudra Rajeev - 2nd.

U-10 Open: Chinmay Koushik - 1st; Adviat Prabhuraj - 2nd; **Girls:** Siddhi Rao - 1st; P. Anandhi - 2nd.

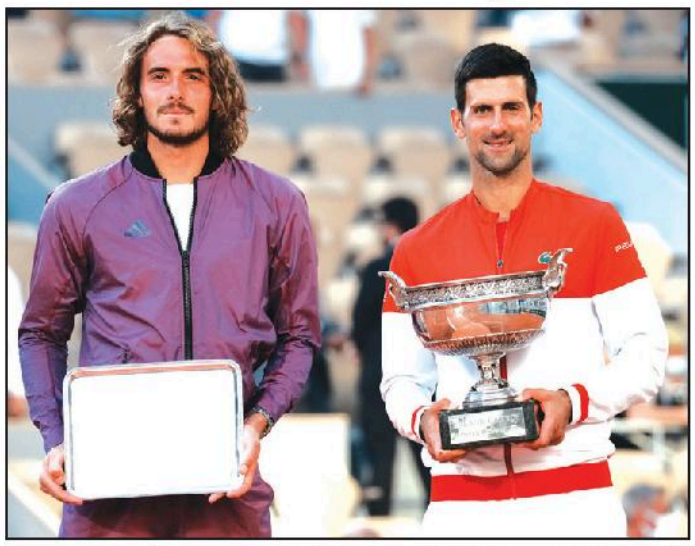
Grand Masters Thejkumar and G.A. Stany and International Masters B.S. Shivananda and Viyani D'cunha appreciated the patience of parents as well as players in adapting to this new platform of online tournament at tornelo. They also advised players to analyse the situation on and off the board and wished them to play well in the upcoming National Championships.

State Chess Secretary Aravind Shastry thanked all chief arbiters Vasanth, Saleem Beig, M. Manjunath and Promod Moree and Assistant Arbiters for their unending hardwork for success of the Championships.

TENNIS TALK

By U.B. Acharya

Novak Djokovic wins his 19th Major



***Novak Djokovic** (right) **and Stefanos Tsitsipas pose with their trophies after their final match of the French Open at Roland Garros Stadium in Paris on June 13, 2021.** [Pic. courtesy: Internet]*

By winning the French Open 2021 last night against Stefanos Tsitsipas, Novak Djokovic (aka 'NOLE') created some kind of a history.

Firstly, after nearly 52 years, the feat of winning all four Majors twice was repeated by Novak. The other two players who have achieved this remarkable feat are the great Rod Laver and Roy Emerson, both Australians in 1960s. Also in the process, he has got his 19th Major title and now only one behind his true great rivals who both have 20 such titles.

In addition, Novak is the only player who has won the year ending ATP finals, year ending World No.1 ranking and all nine Masters 1000 titles at least twice! Also he has held the World No. 1 rank for an incredible 325 weeks longer than any other player.

Considering that he had to face the unbelievable talents of Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, these are no mean feat.

Now let us look at his path to glory at Roland Garros. In the 4th round (which is also the pre-quarter finals), he faced a young Italian teen ager by the name Lozenzo Musetti. Musetti started in a great form and won the first two sets on tie break. Thereafter Djokovic turned the screws and won the next two sets yielding only one game. In the deciding set, while Novak was leading 1-0, he slipped and wounded one of his right fingers. After some medical attention, he continued and when leading 4-0, young Lozenzo decided enough is enough and conceded the match! Many experts believe that Musetti should have continued until the last point.

In the quarter-finals, Djokovic should have met 9th seed Roger Federer but Roger decided to give a walk over to his opponent Matteo Berrittini in pre-quarter finals. So Djokovic faced Berrittini in quarter finals and won against him in four sets, though the match was a close contest.

In the semi-finals it all happened. In front of a limited number of only 5000 spectators, the match between Nadal and Djokovic was fought for every point. If anyone of them did not get the first service in, their second service was punished. Yet Djokovic prevailed with a score of 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 and 6-2. Nadal later admitted that he got tired towards the end and he lost to a better player of the day.

The finals played on Sunday afternoon was between top seed Novak Djokovic and young 22-year-old Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas, the fifth seed.

Tsitsipas has been in great form throughout this clay court season and had won two tournaments including the Monte Carlo tournament.

He played with tremendous confidence and served with a lot of fire power. Though he faced a set point, he not only saved it and went on to win on a tie-break. The second set was one sided at 2-6 in favour of Tsitsipas.

Thereafter, Djokovic raised his game and won the next three sets at 6-3, 6-2 and 6-4! So finally the old-timer prevailed over the next gen player once again.

WORD OF THE DAY

Poignant

Pronunciation: POY-nyunt.
Meaning: The feelings : piercing; deeply affecting : touching; designed to make an impression : cutting; pleasurably stimulating.
Origin: Poignant comes to English from French, and before that from Latin—specifically, the Latin verb pungere, meaning "to prick or sting." Several other common English words derive from pungere, including pungent, which can refer to, among other things, a sharp odor. The influence of pungere can also be seen in puncture, as well as punctual, which originally meant simply "of or relating to a point." Even compunction and expunge come from this pointedly relevant Latin word.
Example: "It's hard to pick apart a film that is as well-intentioned as Here Today, which earnestly wants to celebrate life, and every beautiful, tragic, poignant and surprising moment." — Katie Walsh, The San Diego Union-Tribune, 6 May 2021.

THE ODD WORD

Padrone

Innkeeper; employer.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Paddle your own canoe

Meaning: To paddle your own canoe is to act independently and decide your own fate.
Origin: The figurative meaning of 'padding one's own canoe' began to be used in the early 19th century. This was what was in mind of the author of The Selangor Journal: Jottings Past and Present, 1807, when reporting the lack of community spirit amongst the coffee planters in Malaysia:
If the planters would unite and use their united influence they could start a bank to advance money to deserving young planters... but they won't do it. They let each poor fellow paddle his own canoe, and if he capsizes and stretches out his hand in despair for someone to save him... they won't do it.
The imagery of self-reliance that the phrase conjures up was employed by the founder of the Scouts Movement, Lord Baden-Powell, when he used it as the title of a book in 1939.

QUOTE BOX

Science is what you know. Philosophy is what you don't know.

—Bertrand Russell

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

Answer: Streets apart.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

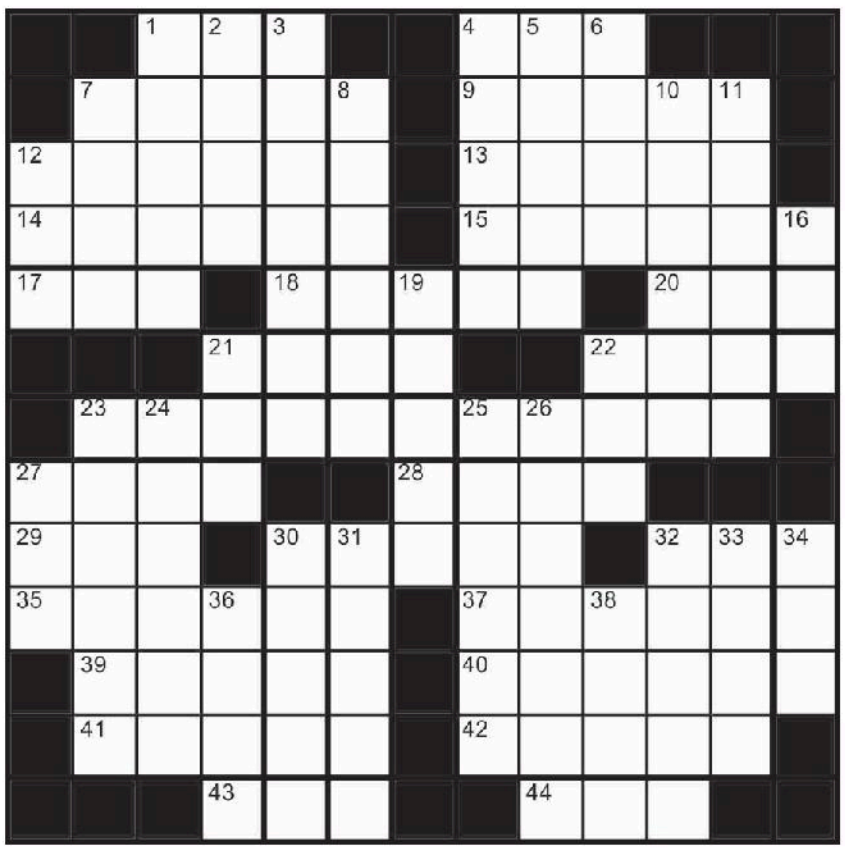
1 A light blow
4 Reactions of surprise
7 Raise shoulders
9 Type of bear
12 Freely available or accessible (4,2)
13 Vacuous
14 Silktree
15 Observe
17 Fr. holy title
18 Aquatic beast
20 "My" in French ?
21 Not many (1,3)
22 Way of walking
23 72 inches in height? (3,4,4)
27 Tel ser. provider in New Delhi and Mumbai
28 Female sheep
29 Fort near Monterey
30 Make broader
32 Opp. direction to NNW
35 It keeps a neckwear in place? (3-3)
37 Nod involuntarily
39 Topples or cuts down trees
40 With no exception? (2,1,3)
41 Bring out
42 Delicious
43 ___ on : advanced or made progress?
44 James Bond for one, Nick Carter for another?

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

S	I	S	■	B	O	W	S	■	O	R	E
U	S	K	■	A	R	O	S	E	■	C	U	T
N	E	I	■	Y	O	K	E	L	■	T	B	A
K	E	N	D	O	■	■	■	S	L	A	Y	S
■	■	■	S	U	M	■	P	A	Y	■	■	■
S	C	U	M	■	A	P	R	■	E	B	B	S
E	O	S	■	■	I	L	O	■	■	E	I	A
E	L	S	E	■	N	Y	X	■	M	T	N	L
■	■	■	S	T	E	■	Y	O	B	■	■	■
A	B	A	C	A	■	■	■	N	A	C	H	O
L	E	R	■	C	A	R	A	T	■	H	A	M
T	A	C	■	O	S	A	M	A	■	I	L	A
I	S	H	■	■	H	O	O	P	■	C	O	N

DOWN

1 Subject
2 Florentine river
3 Defers or postpones; disappoints? (4,3)
4 Orate; express one's views
5 English actress Blackman of Goldfinger fame
6 A narrow strip of wood or metal
7 ___ it out : speak candidly or louder?
8 Tufted beard
10 Creature or brute?
11 Jerk back
12 On-Board Maintenance Sys.
16 Tolkien's tree like creature
19 Rough woollen fabric
21 Rock musician __ Rose
22 Methane or oxygen?
23 Conflict or struggle
24 A friend in need is a friend ___?
25 A score
26 Insubstantial or thin
27 Bon ____
30 "Will comply" in telecommunications
31 Small picture, etc inserted into a larger one
32 Samuel's pet name?
33 Rope or wire to support the mast?
34 "Even" in short for the poet
36 Stopper
38 Pack down



SUDOKU

				5		9	1	4
			9	7				
					3			5
4						7		
5		1	4		2	3		8
		9						6
8			2					
				8	1			
1	2	6		9				

Answer to previous puzzle

2	6	7	4	1	5	8	9	3
9	4	3	8	6	7	2	1	5
8	5	1	9	3	2	7	6	4
6	2	5	1	8	9	3	4	7
1	8	9	3	7	4	6	5	2
3	7	4	5	2	6	1	8	9
7	9	8	2	5	1	4	3	6
5	1	2	6	4	3	9	7	8
4	3	6	7	9	8	5	2	1

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

WRCV MEI'Y F BVKMEMRI. MY'E F UVVWMID. MU

OV KRZWB BVKMBV ONR OV WRCVB, MY ORZWB XV

AZKN EMASWVG, XZY AZKN WVEE AFDMKFW.

TODAY'S CLUE: M EQUALS I

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: An opinion should be the result of thought, not a substitute for it.

Economically backward people urged to avail COVID relief

Mysuru, June 15 (DM)- D. Devaraj Urs Backward Classes Development Corporation Chairman R. Raghu Kautilya has urged economically backward sections such as tailors, hairdressers, washermen, fishermen and auto drivers, to come forward and avail Government's COVID relief.

He was speaking after formally launching the distribution of acknowledgements to beneficiaries who applied for the State Government's one time relief of Rs. 2,000 at a programme organised under the aegis of Jeevadhara Graduates Association, in front of Dr. Rajkumar's statue at Rajkumar Park in city on Saturday.

Pointing out that Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, despite financial constraints, has announced a one-time COVID-19 monetary assistance of Rs. 2,000 to each beneficiary from economically backward sections, Raghu said that it is satisfactory to note that Corona cases was coming down gradually.

Asking the people to adhere to COVID-19 appropriate behaviour, he said that the CM is doing everything possible to contain the spread of the pandemic and at the same time balancing the economy.

Noting that Jeevadhara Graduates Association is helping the beneficiaries apply through Seva Sindhu App for seeking relief, Raghu asked the economically backward sections to avail this benefit by producing Aadhaar Card, Bank Passbook, vocational certificate and passport size photograph.

Stating that a helpline has been set up at Dasara Exhibition premises for the purpose, he stressed on the need for everyone to follow COVID guidelines.

State BJP Spokesperson M.G. Mahesh and Savita Samaja Hitarakshana Samiti President Ramesh Kumar too spoke.

Corporator M. Satish, Women and Child Welfare Department staff Renuka Raj, Jeevadhara Graduates Association Secretary Varalakshmi, Parisara Jagruthi Vedike President Mahendra Singh Kalappa, Jeevadhara Blood Bank Director Girish, BJP leader Saraswathi Prasad, Savita Samaja President Saraswathi Ramesh, leaders Prithvi Singh Chandawat and others took part.

Three-day vaccination drive for hotel workers begins

Mysuru, June 15 (RK&SD)- A. three-day COVID vaccination drive for hotel workers was launched, under the aegis of Hotel Owners' Association and Hotel Owners' Association Trust, at People's Park, Nazarbad in city yesterday morning.

Speaking after launching the vaccination drive, Association President C. Narayanagowda stated that Association is aiming to vaccinate 250 to 300 hotel workers per day and have already short-listed 800 of them in this first phase of three-day vaccination drive.

Mysuru Hotel Owners' Credit Co-operative Society President Sundar, Nodal Officer P.M. Prasad, Hotel Owners' Association Charitable Trust President Ravi Shastri, office-bearers Mahesh Kamat, Bhaskar Shetty, A.R. Ravindra Bhat, Subramanya Tantri, A.C. Ravi, Gopal Krishna, Health Department staff and others were present.

BJP Mahila Morcha distributed food packets to the needy in city. The Mahila Morcha has been distributing food packets daily to about 250 to 300 people including the staff of COVID Care Centres (CCCs), construction workers, Police personnel and the homeless. City BJP Mahila Morcha President Hema Nandish, Vice-President Rashmi, General Secretary Poornima and others were present.

Pailwan Deepak Kiran, Proprietor of Mahaan Adithya Finance at Vidyaranyapuram, distributed grocery kits to the needy people at Ashokapuram in city recently. Pailwan Sunil, Mahesh, Anil, Chandru and others were present.

Shivakumar, proprietor of Mahalakshmi Sweets, donated about 200 grocery kits which were distributed by Corporator M.V. Ramprasad to the needy recently. C. Sandeep, Somesh, Dharmendra, Shivakumar, Advaith, Ramachandra, Mahesh and others were present.

MCC Ward No. 19 Corporator Bhagya C. Madesh distributed grocery kits to Pourakarmikas, roadside vendors, auto drivers and to the needy recently. JD(S) leaders Nalina Manju, Madan Madesh, Nandan Madesh, Srinivas, Naagu and others were present.

Mandatory gold hallmarking implemented

Jewellers can only sell 14, 18 and 22 carats of gold jewellery from today

Mysuru, June 15 (KS) - The Central Government has implemented the mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts from today (June 15). It is compulsory from today to sell gold jewellery in fineness of 916 (22 carat), 750 (18 carat) and 585 (14 carat) only. Earlier the deadline was June 1 which was extended by a fortnight in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

President of Mysuru Jewellers Association, Amarnath, speaking to *Star of Mysore* this morning said that the mandatory gold hallmarking has been implemented by the Government from today and added that every jeweller should obtain the hallmarking licence and then only the jeweller can sell 14, 18 and 22 carats gold jewellery.

He said "An awareness programme on BIS Hallmarking Scheme of Gold and Silver Jewellery, which was organised by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Bengaluru Branch Office, was held for city jewellers in Mar. 25, where jewellers were apprised about quality control order for mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery/artefacts and the salient features of Hallmarking. Selling Hallmarked jewellery from June 15 without a valid registration is an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year and a hefty fine of Rs. 1 lakh. Jewellers not having BIS Hallmark registration were asked to apply for the same in view of mandatory Hallmarking Quality control order as Hallmarking registration would project them as Quality Conscious to Consumer."

Amarnath said that there are over 1,000

jewellers in city and following a call for BIS Hallmark registration during the awareness programme, only 80 jewellers have registered till date. "Many jewellers have sought to sell 23 and 24 carats gold jewellery. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs has stated that it would look into the disadvantages the jewellers would face and streamline the same in due course," he added.

BIS, the National Standards Body of India functioning under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India, is operating the Hallmarking Scheme for Gold Jewellery to protect consumers against the purchase of gold jewellery with lesser purity than declared and to develop export competitiveness to make India as a leading gold market centre in the world besides providing Product certification, Standardisation activities for products etc. Hallmarking is the accurate determination and official recording of the proportionate content of precious metal in the jewellery / artefacts or bullion/coins.

Actor Sanchari Vijay's funeral today with State honours

Chikmagalur, June 15- The last rites of National Award-winning Kannada actor Sanchari Vijay (38) will be performed at his native place Panchanahalli in Kadur taluk of Chikmagalur with full State honours later today.

The actor had suffered serious head injuries in a road accident on Saturday and was admitted to Bengaluru's Apollo Hospital in critical condition where he was declared brain dead last evening.

Earlier in the day today, his body was kept at Ravindra Kalakshetra in Bengaluru for people to pay their last respects. The actor's organs were donated following consent from his family members.

Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa took to Twitter to appreciate Vijay's family for donating his organs. "National Award winning actor Sanchari Vijay's funeral will be held with full State Police honours. With my condolences, I also express my gratitude to his family, who donated his organs," tweeted Chief Minister's Office.

Sanchari Vijay

Late on Monday night, doctors had announced that Vijay was brain dead. "Vijay's apnea tests were performed at 12.25 pm and 7.50 pm today (Monday) and are found to be positive. This means that there is irreversible complete damage to the brain. The next step is the retrieval of organs and then transplant procedures will follow," the hospital had said in a bulletin.

It's raining in Kodagu

(Continued from page 1)

The water level at Triveni Sangama in Bhagamandala has increased considerably following rain in catchment areas. If rain continues, the Sangama is likely to be submerged in a day or two.

Several trees have fallen on power lines in Seventh Hosakote, Kambibane, Maluru, Mattikadu, Mayamudi and Birunani. A roof of a house in Madenadu near Madikeri was lifted off by strong winds and has crashed in a nearby coffee estate.

As per the rainfall details issued by the District Administration at 8 am this morning, Madikeri Taluk has received 62.7 mm in the last 24 hours with 90.4 mm rain in Bhagamandala, 39.5 in Sampaje, 59.2 in Napoklu and 61.2 mm in Madikeri. Virajpet Taluk has received 26.83 mm and Somwarpet Taluk received 42.4 mm.

The combined average of the three Taluks is 43.93 mm. In all, Madikeri Taluk received 250.3 mm rainfall from January this year till date, Virajpet got 161 mm and Somwarpet Taluk recorded 254.4 mm rainfall.

The Kodagu District Administration has already deployed National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) along with State Disaster Response Force in vulnerable areas and has tasked them with vacating people from low-lying areas and those living in hilly regions that are prone to landslides. There are over 771 families that have to be shifted from dangerous areas in Madikeri Taluk, 381 from Madikeri Town.

In Ponnampet Taluk, 192 families have to be shifted to safer areas and over 347 people have to be relocated from Kushalnagar Town and over 700 families have to be moved out from Somwarpet Taluk. In all, over 10,522 people from 2,878 families across the district have to be relocated and 77 places including schools and other Government buildings have been identified to set up relief centres that have food, shelter and sanitation facilities.

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